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## Powering the Future: DLA's Hydrogen Fuel Cell Pilots

Mr. Rob Hardison June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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#### **Presentation Overview**

- Fuel cell basics
- DLA's H<sub>2</sub> and Fuel Cell Technologies R&D Program
  - Forklift/H<sub>2</sub> infrastructure pilot projects
  - Program expansion to increase H<sub>2</sub> demand and utilization
- User's lessons learned
  - Safety
  - Stakeholder buy-in
  - Program development and execution
- Industry's lessons learned
  - Permitting
  - Contracting agreements
  - Codes and Standards



## **Hydrogen Fuel Cell Basics**

#### **Energy production:**

- •Break H<sub>2</sub> bonds to generate electricity
- Byproducts: water & heat

#### Potential Applications:

- Electric drive motors
  - Automobiles
  - Material Handling Equipment (MHE)
  - Trains
- Man portable power
- Stationary backup power
- Large power systems











# Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Benefits

- Operational benefits over batteries
  - Rapid refueling
  - No battery management (changing, charging, disposing, Hazmat)
  - Constant power
  - Fuel cell forklifts offer most value in three shift operations
- Environmental sustainability:
  - Fuel cells are highly efficient:
    - Capture regenerative breaking
    - Hybrid systems using ultra capacitors or small batteries
    - Capture load lowering energy
  - No fuel cell 'tailpipe' emissions
  - Potential for "green" hydrogen production pathway – zero GHG emissions





## DLA's Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Program MHE Pilots: Goals

- Be an <u>early adopter</u> and <u>principal demonstrator</u>
- Foster competition in the marketplace and provide a market demand
- Support improved Technology and Manufacturing Readiness Levels (TRLs and MRLs)
  - -Exercise the supply chain
  - -Test under real world conditions
  - -Provide feedback to manufacturers
  - -Position fuel cell technology for consumer markets
- Highlight the business case for fuel cells
- Further cost reductions through both R&D and volume

Improve fuel cell readiness by funding R&D efforts in areas that are near commercialization



## **DLA's Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Program**

#### 4 Fuel cell forklift demonstration projects

#### Approach:

- Pilot multiple H<sub>2</sub> generation, dispensing and fuel cell technologies to power MHE in warehouse operations
- Analyze operational data to establish an operational business case compared to incumbent technologies

#### Collaborators:

3 Leading fuel cell mfg, 2 leading hydrogen mfg, DLA/DOE/NSWC Crane/NREL with multiple prime contractors

#### Funding (Congressional):

FY07: \$12.7M FY08: \$13.9M

FY09: \$8M

FY10: \$6M

#### Locations:

**DDSP**: 40 forklifts, delivered (cryogenic) H<sub>2</sub>, indoor dispensing

**DDWG**: 20 forklifts, onsite natural gas reformation for H<sub>2</sub>, mobile refueling

**JBLM**: 19 forklifts, 1 bus, wastewater digester gas H<sub>2</sub>

**DDJC**: 20 forklifts, electrolysis for H<sub>2</sub>, Power Purchase Agreement (Solar)

**Duration**: 2 years each

Business case analysis based on performance and cost data collect by NREL



## **Moving Forward**

#### Extended Range Utility Vehicle

- Beginning Phase II: construct and implement 2 Phase I designs
  - Funding: \$3.5M amongst several awardees
  - Delivery expected Fall 2010

#### Spiral Development at DDSP & DDWG

- Expand the technical requirements and/or capacity of ongoing DLA demonstration projects
- Stock selectors and "Yard Tractor" source selection in Dec 2010

#### Ford ICE Bus

Utilize H<sub>2</sub> capacity and expand interagency partnerships



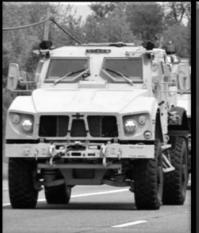




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DLA H<sub>2</sub> R&D – Users' Lessons Learned



### **Business Case Analysis**

#### Analyzing the business case for fuel cell MHE at 4 sites:

- Teaming with NREL on data collection and analysis
- 99 fuel cell forklifts, 1 bus
- Will take 2-3 years to compile (protecting proprietary info)
- To support transition planning (R&D to operational)

#### Comparing:

- •H<sub>2</sub> fuel cell vs. battery-electric and propane powered MHE
- Delivered liquid H<sub>2</sub> vs. H<sub>2</sub> produced on site vs. H<sub>2</sub> via solar-electrolysis
- Full fleet vs. partial fleet replacement

### Cost categories included in analysis

- Hydrogen production/delivery
- Hydrogen infrastructure O&M
- Fuel cell O&M

- Refueling time
- Floor space (indoor & outdoor)
- Power to operate infrastructure



# Lessons Learned: Project Development

- Work closely with host activities to:
  - Identify realistic goals and define program deliverables
  - Generate MOA with participants to establish and document responsibilities
- Track and implement improvements made along the way in future development
- Plan with the end in mind (consider transition from R&D early; consider the business case)





# Lessons Learned: Develop Buy-In

Socialize early – instill confidence!

- Hold early and regular informational meetings
  - Command, Users, Union, PAO, Physical Security, <u>Fire Department</u>
- Hand out brochures
  - Highlight benefits but recognize safety concerns
- Focus on system safety features
  - Dispel "Hindenburg" misperceptions
- Provide awareness training for <u>all</u> employees
- Heavily promote response procedures







# Lessons Learned: Permitting & Site Approval Process

- Early introduction to site safety/environmental team
  - Developing codes/regulations slows approval process for state/Federal/site permitting
  - Uniform Facilities Code: review and analysis by FPE
- Share lessons learned
  - Share permitting process with DoD activities considering hydrogen pilot programs
  - Share permitting process with commercial sector generating codes and standards
  - Harmonize IFC, NFPA and UFC
    - UFC revision in 2009





## **Lessons Learned: Training**

- Content specific to those being trained:
  - General Awareness Training
    - ~2500 trained
  - First responders
  - Refueling personnel
  - Forklift personnel
- Small training group size
  - Size as needed for hands-on interaction



- Complicated with more than one FC type
  - Physical aspects of fuel cells
  - Getting used to refueling
  - Running out of fuel

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## DLA H<sub>2</sub> R&D – Industry's Lessons Learned



# Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Challenges

#### **Challenges to widespread use:**

- High cost
  - Fuel cells and hydrogen production
  - Even higher for 'green' hydrogen technologies
- Fuel cell durability
- Hydrogen storage
  - Onboard storage capacity for long range capability
- Infrastructure
  - Fueling stations
  - Production
  - Distribution
- Public acceptance
- Switching from production pathways focused on conventional feedstocks





## Improved TRLs and MRLs

### TRLs (Technology Readiness Levels)

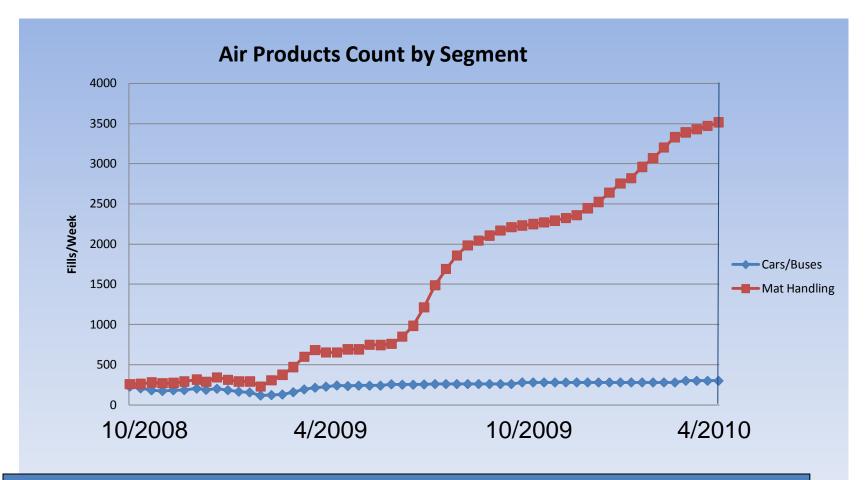
- A measure of technological readiness based on a defined set of criteria and standards.
- Used to quantify technology risk.

#### **MRLs** (Manufacturing Readiness Levels)

- A measure of manufacturing readiness or producibility based on a defined set of criteria and standards.
- Used to quantify manufacturing risk.



## Hydrogen Dispenser Fills



DDSP: Over 50,000 operating hours, 15,000 refuelings, 10,000 kg of H<sub>2</sub> dispensed

Courtesy Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.



## Improved TRLs and MRLs

- Improvements realized:
  - High pressure CHC
    - first CHC 7000 at DDSP
    - 16 months operating data
  - Cascading manifolds
    - actuated valves/fittings
  - Dispenser reliability
    - check valves/nozzle
  - Dispensing techniques
    - multiple vehicle logistics
  - Dispenser installation codes
    - NFPA 52 2006 edition
    - changes in 2010 edition



### Anticipated

- On-site generation
- Distribution models
- Below grade storage
- MHE/Fuel cell interface



### **Prime Contractor Challenges**

- Fuel Supply Options
  - SOG vs. SOE
  - On-site generation
- Pricing structure
  - Monthly Service Charge vs. Purchase
- Infrastructure equipment
  - demonstration to operation
  - significant change in usage
- OEMs / pack developers
  - Shifting market
- MHE
  - New market







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